

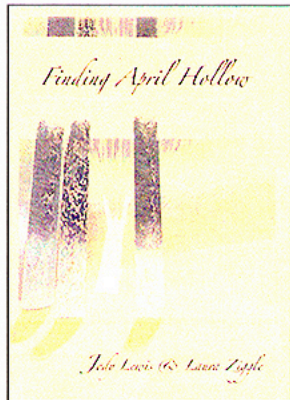
BOOK REVIEW

Finding April Hollow

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Every teacher needs this book. *Finding April Hollow* is one of a kind. Its rich detail and poignant descriptions as students and their teachers interact—or not—give educators an exciting, fresh approach to the art and science of teaching. Both insightful and instructive, this magical book also makes an indispensable resource for new teachers who are learning to distinguish “flat-line (read: ‘lifeless; dead’) instruction” from genuine teaching! For the next graduate or undergraduate class I teach, I shall use *Finding April Hollow* as a required text. It’s simply THAT good!



Finding April Hollow is a unique gem, which I’ve begun to share with colleagues whose teaching I respect. This extraordinary story illustrates how, in unconventional ways, a class of students can be challenged to be the best they can possibly be. Working together in an atmosphere of experimentation and academic rigor, neither of which is mentioned specifically, these youngsters applaud this stimulating learning

environment and guard it jealously as a perfect home for their own very personal reasons.

Playful puns, special words reiterated in key places to tether the reader to each child individually, and colorful, descriptive, and frequently humorous references make for the beautifully crafted piece of written art that is *Finding April Hollow*. Passages are compelling, yet gentle and often subtle as they convey the art of effective teaching. I myself have read the story twice and plan to read it again. Its vibrant, refreshing detail is worth multiple reads. ■

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The Wild Ones

*Each day a wild flower
is mistaken for a weed.*

*I used to teach the wild
roses, the daffodils that listed
toward the ground.*

*I found that I could comprehend
their differences, see the sky
from angles that they knew
and in a host of colors,
not merely blue.*

*Each day an unexpected tune
is sung but not perceived
as anything but noise.*

*I used to find that I could
poise silent for a moment
and, though I do not hear all
music very well, even I could
tell that sometimes*

*symphonies were being
played before me.*

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